

Whig and Courier

BY BOUTELLE BROTHERS.

All business letters should be addressed to Boutelle Brothers, and communications intended for publication should be addressed to "Editor of Whig and Courier."

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1897.

The President's Message.

President McKinley sent a brief message to Congress Monday when it sat in special session. It was confined strictly to a statement of the condition of the finances and the recommendation that legislation for the relief of the treasury be promptly enacted. The total deficiency for the three years and eight months ending March first is \$150,000,000. The Treasury is not only without a surplus, but the public debt has been increased with a corresponding increase in the annual interest charges. The government must have revenue and in raising the same the President says duties should be levied upon foreign products so as to preserve the home market, as far as possible, revives and increases our manufactures, relieves and encourages agriculture and render to labor every field of occupation liberal wages. In conclusion the President says: "Before other business is transacted let us first provide sufficient revenue to faithfully administer the government without the contraction of further debt, or the continued disturbance of our finances."

New City Government.

The members of the new City Government took the oath of office Monday and then hastened to the address of the Mayor. The officers will be found in full in another column. It is something of a departure from the usual custom, being especially short and as devised, a most entirely to a consideration of the railroad question and the water works. So far as the changes are concerned the Mayor says the city is in better shape than it has been for thirty years, a condition due to the fact that the motto pay as you go was adopted during the last year, but for the cause taken by the City Government and sustained by the people the showing would have been different.

As regards the proposition of the B. & A. Railroad Company to be relieved from its obligation to build to the city, it is manifest that the Mayor proposes to attach as a condition the release of the city from the obligation. Instead of renewing the B. & A. Railroad bonds, in connection with the water works the Mayor again asserts that the proposed extension could have been built without any additional taxation, and intimates some ulterior motives underlie the opposition of the citizens to the contemplated expenditure. He declares that something must be done at the works, which he says are becoming weak and worn from long use.

The City Government originated at the close of the inaugural. In the upper board there was a concert between Councilmen Lord and Chapman for the position of President. It was a close vote, and a strong cleavage in favor of the former. President Lord is one of our young and progressive business men, a good parliamentarian and will make an efficient and impartial presiding officer.

The Hospital Resolves.

The Augusta correspondent of the Portland Argus says that Mr. Austin, of Milford, is down on the programme to offer an amendment abolishing the commission when the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital resolve comes up for action. The same writer adds: "It is not thought probable that even the appropriation of \$250,000 can get through the House if the commission is abolished." This last statement is in accord with the information received by the writer on the occasion of a recent visit to Augusta. In view of this feeling it is matter of surprise that a member of the Peabody delegation should contemplate action that by any possibility may interfere with the passage of the resolve. The importance to the State of this appropriation cannot be overestimated. The hospital is at State necessity and should be completed with the least possible delay.

It is worse than folly for any member who is earnestly in favor of the appropriation to antagonize the enactment of the bill. The work of the committee has been passed upon by the Governor and Council and pronounced satisfactory. The commission can complete the institution, in our judgment, better and cheaper than can be done under the direction of the new Governor and Council who have no specific knowledge of the details of the work, and who, we understand, are naturally averse to having this burden thrust upon them. The individual member may have his opinion on this point, but certainly the success of the appropriation itself should be the first consideration. The committee has investigated the matter and has failed to retain the commission in the new resolve. In reaching this decision the matter has been examined in all its bearings, the idea being to present the resolve so as to secure the greatest possible support for the appropriation itself, which, of course, is the important feature to be considered, and the committee ought to be sustained by all the friends of the new institution.

A Difficult Problem to Solve.

The heavy withdrawals of imported goods from bonded warehouses in New York and elsewhere in the last few days in anticipation of the enactment of a new tariff law advancing rates of duty, has, as a matter of course, attracted the attention of Mr. Blodget and his colleagues, who are engaged in the preparation of the new bill. To say that they have been surprised or that they have not given their most earnest and thoughtful consideration to the matter would be wrong. It is not the unexpected, however, which is happening, but to stop it is another matter.

What the Veto and Motion Committee when appealed, will recommend is uncertain. There is a strong sentiment in favor of the immediate passage through the House of Representatives of a joint resolution to reimpose upon textile goods, "anticipatory" importations and withdrawals of which are most to be feared, either the duties prescribed by the act of 1890 or those to be proposed in the forthcoming bill.

The problem is an exceedingly difficult one, and has been studied and considered in all its phases by Governor Blodget and his colleagues ever since the beginning of the last session of the 51st Congress. The problem would be easy enough to solve if in the Senate the same conditions prevailed that exist in the House of Representatives. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The matter has been the subject of careful and thorough investigation, and the result was finally reached by Mr. Governor Blodget in the form of a communication with a House committee. He said: "It is a very strong recommendation, if not an absolute command, that we should stand as long as possible and not agree to simple resolutions which would put us in a position to be compelled to give up our

right to a further question on the subject. Governor Blodget said that the proposition to report, and pass a joint resolution to cut off anticipatory importations and withdrawals was still under consideration, but he could not say what would be the result.

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